

# William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity

May 26, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

## BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Toya Roberts Conston  
Terence Frederick  
Immy Papadopoulos  
Mary Ramos  
Morris Smith (new board member)  
Yolanda Smith  
Gerald Womack

## BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Hether Benjamin Brown  
Catherine Mosbacher  
Kimberly Wilkinson

## STAFF/GUESTS

Cheryl Lawson, Executive Director  
Dr. Marthea Raney, Principal  
Sherrill Burge, TEA Monitor

- 1. Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Mary Ramos at 9:39 a.m.
- 2. Establishment of Quorum.** The quorum was established at 9:39 a.m.
- 3. Opening Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance.**
- 4. Public Comment.** There was no public comment.
- 5. Approval of Minutes from April 28, 2018.** Toya Roberts-Conston moved the approval of minutes from April 28, 2018. Terence Frederick seconded the motion. The motion was approved by T. Conston, T. Frederic, I. Papadopoulos, M. Ramos, M. Smith, Y. Smith, and G. Womack.
- 6. Governance and Nominating Committee Report.** Cheryl Lawson recognized a new member to the board: Morris Smith.
- 7. Finance and Audit Committee Report.** Toya Roberts-Conston reported on the April financial reports. Discussion around the Charter First Corrective Action plan. Cheryl Lawson will send the Corrective Action Plan to the Board. In advance of next month's meeting, staff will conduct a Charter First analysis to assure that The Lawson Academy will not fail for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Terence Frederick moved the approval of the April financials. Yolanda Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved by T. Conston, T. Frederic, I. Papadopoulos, M. Ramos, M. Smith, Y. Smith, and G. Womack.
- 8. Recruiting.** Discussion of the recruiting effort including Open House (May 19), statistics on enrollment and upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> grade graduations. Gerald Womack indicated that families sometimes think that 'charter schools' are for problem children, and that the stigma may apply to our prospects. Yolanda Smith talked about the NAACP event which hosted TEA's Deputy Commissioner for Governance, A.J. Crabill.
- 9. Facility Report.** Discussion of the now actual lawsuit filed by TSG, LLC. Immy Papadopoulos asked whether the lawyer(s) thought we would be likely to prevail on a summary judgement. Cheryl Lawson will also find out what the lawsuit will cost us, if the lawyer(s) can provide that information.
- 10. Academy Report.** FY19 Academy Calendar was presented for board approval. Yolanda Smith moved the acceptance of the calendar. Gerald Womack seconded the motion. The motion was approved by T. Conston, T. Frederic, I. Papadopoulos, M. Ramos, M. Smith, Y. Smith, and G. Womack.

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Dr. Raney discussed the completion of STAAR and Stanford 10 testing. Scores are expected to be available in mid-June. Questioning the issue of 'test fatigue', Dr. Raney indicated that the testing schedule had not exhausted the students, since each student took a few hours of testing per week, not all day every day. It was requested that we begin now to create a longitudinal study of what happens to the Academy students after graduation.

**11. Executive Director's Report.** Executive Director Cheryl Lawson requested approval of active shooter insurance for both the WALIPP Senior Residence and The Lawson Academy. Gerald Womack moved the approval of \$5M in coverage. Yolanda Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved by T. Conston, T. Frederic, I. Papadopoulos, M. Ramos, M. Smith, Y. Smith, and G. Womack.

**12. Executive Session.** There was no Executive Session.

**13. Adjournment.** Terence Frederick moved adjournment at 11:24 p.m. Gerald Womack seconded the motion. The motion was approved by T. Conston, T. Frederic, I. Papadopoulos, M. Ramos, M. Smith, Y. Smith, and G. Womack.